

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENOA 00145 151110Z
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST LEADER CRAXI WINS PARTY CONTROL IN LIGURIA

1. UNOFFICIAL BUT COMPLETE RESULTS OF THE SOCIALIST (PSI) SECTIONAL ELECTIONS TO CHOOSE DELEGATES TO THE REGIONAL CONGRESS, TO BE HELD IN GENOA MARCH 18-19, INDICATE THAT THE CRAXI-SIGNORILE LIST HAS WON A COMFORTABLE MAJORITY (58.24 PER CENT) OF THE VOTE CAST. THE THREE COMPETING LISTS SCORED AS FOLLOWS:

DE MARTINO-MANCA: 33.15 PER CENT; MANCINI: 6.05 PER CENT; AND ACHILLI-OTHERS: 2.56 PER CENT. AS HAS GENERALLY BEEN THE CASE IN SIMILAR CONTESTS IN THE RECENT PAST, ONLY 55 PER CENT OF THE PARTY'S 15,000-STRONG MEMBERSHIP BOTHRESSED TO VOTE.

2. A BREAKDOWN, BY PROVINCE, SHOWS THE FOLLOWING LINE-UP:

A. GENOA: CRAXI-SIGNORILE 61.76 PER CENT

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DE MARTINO-MANCA 21.67 "

MANCINI 8.02 "

ACHILLI-OTHERS 8.55 "

B. SAVONA: CRAXI-SIGNORILE 24.77 PER CENT

DE MARTINO-MANCA 75.00 "

OTHERS .23 "

C. LA SPEZIA: CRAXI-SIGNORILE 85.13 PER CENT

DE MARTINO-MANCA 13.81 "

ACHILLI-OTHERS 1.06 "

D. IMPERIA: CRAXI-SIGNORILE 55.00 PER CENT

DE MARTINO-MANCA 33.00 "

MANCINI 11.46 "

ACHILLI-OTHERS .54 "

3. THE REGIONAL CONGRESS, WHICH WILL MEET THIS WEEK-END TO CHOOSE DELEGATES TO THE TURIN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MARCH 29-31, IS NOT EXPECTED TO PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS IN THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THE FOUR GROUPS. THERE ARE RUMORS, HOWEVER, THAT THE MANCINI FOLLOWERS, HEADED BY REGIONAL ALDERMAN FRANCESCO MALERBA, MAY MERGE WITH THE DE MARTINO-MANCA GROUP, LED BY REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT ALBERTO TEARDO. IF SO, THE NEW JOINT GROUP WOULD NARROW THE GAP, BUT WOULD NOT CUT INTO THE STRENGTH OF THE CRAXI MAJORITY, HEADED BY GENOA'S MAYOR FULVIO CEROFOLINI, PROVINCIAL SECRETARY FABRIZIO MORO AND FORMER DEPUTY ANTONIO CANEPA.

COMMENT: IN THE 1076 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, THE PSI WON 11 PER CENT OF THE VOTE IN LIGURIA, A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT OVER THE PARTY'S 9.6 PER CENT NATIONAL AVERAGE. CRAXI'S RESPECTABLE SHOWING IN THE SECTIONAL TESTS WAS DUE PRIMARILY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO A MERGER OF LOCAL BIG WIGS WHOSE FACTIONAL ORIENTATION SPAN THE WHOLE LEFT-RIGHT SPECTRUM OF THE PARTY. THE VERY HETEROGENITY OF THE CRAXI GROUP, HOWEVER, IS LIKELY TO POSE A CONSTANT THREAT TO ITS COHESIVENESS. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION THAT PRESENT REGIONAL SECRETARY GIANCARLO MENTI, WHO IS GENERALLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE TEARDO FACTION, WILL NOT BE RECONFIRMED IN HIS POST. FORMER DEPUTY CANEPA IS MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED AS HIS POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR. DISCIULLO

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